

A Monthly Progress Report on the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth



Labor & Economic Briefing

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Here is a summary of headlining accomplishments from the last month:

Creating & Retaining Michigan Jobs

Governor Celebrates Hyundai-Kia Tech Center Grand Opening: Governor Granholm joined state, local, and company leaders in Superior Township near Ann Arbor on October 13 to celebrate the grand opening of the Hyundai-Kia Technical Center. The 200,000-square-foot, \$117 million expandable facility is expected to create a total of 751 new jobs for Michigan workers, including 400 directly by the company. According to an economic analysis conducted by the University of Michigan, it is estimated that the new tech center will create an additional 351 Michigan jobs as a result of increased economic activity. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation granted a Single Business Tax credit valued at \$22 million over 12 years to convince Hyundai to expand in Michigan over a competing site in Alabama. Superior Township also provided assistance through a local tax abatement worth an estimated \$6.4 million over 12 years. The Hyundai America Technical Center was established in 1986 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company of Korea. The company conducts emissions testing, engineering, research, development and design for Hyundai and Kia automobiles. The tech center was previously located in Pittsfield Township, near the site of the new facility.



**Governor
Jennifer M.
Granholm**

New Agricultural Renaissance Zones in Lenawee, Oceana Counties to Create 117 Jobs: Approval of two tax-free Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones is expected to create 117 new jobs and \$111 million in new private investment. They will support the development of a new ethanol production plant in Lenawee County and the expansion of a food processing company in Oceana County. The following companies will invest and create jobs in the zones:

- **Great Lakes Ethanol** plans to build a new ethanol processing plant in Adrian in Lenawee County. The project is expected to create 62 new jobs and \$55 million in private investment. The zone is expected to be more than 102 acres and remain tax-free for up to 15 years.
- **Chase Farms**, a family-owned and operated food processor since 1964, plans to invest \$21 million to expand its operations in Walkerville, located in Colfax Township, Oceana County. The project is expected to create 55 new jobs and \$21 million in private investment. The size of the zone is expected to be 80 acres and remain free of state and local taxes for up to 10 years.

Governor Joins Aisin Automotive Proving Ground Dedication in Fowlerville: Governor Granholm joined state, local, and company leaders in Fowlerville on Oct. 5 to celebrate the ribbon cutting at FT Techno of America LLC, an 800-acre automotive proving ground and testing center. A subsidiary of the Japan-based Aisin Seiki Group, the FT Techno facility is expected to create 56 new jobs. The new center will be used to develop auto-related products including brakes, transmissions and power train, chassis and body systems components. The proving ground is Aisin's first in North America and its third worldwide. Aisin Seiki, headquartered in Kariya City, Aichi, Japan, is a worldwide supplier of auto parts, drive train components, engine, brake and chassis parts as well as information-related products. In North America, the Aisin Group has 26 manufacturing, R&D and sales centers including the Plymouth-based Aisin World Corp. of America. Aisin is 25 percent owned by Toyota Motor Company. MEDC, Handy Township and the Economic Development Council of Livingston County worked with Aisin to identify the location for the facility.

Governor Announces Assistance to Support New Spring Lake Development: A \$240,000 grant for the village of Spring Lake will turn a former industrial site into a location for a new restaurant and public parking. The project, to be known as Lake Pointe, is expected to create 12 new jobs with \$1.4 million in private investment. The grant is being made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with funds provided by the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The village will use the grant to improve the public entrance to the site, including new curbs, sidewalks and parking, to allow greater public access to the lake. The two-acre property is located at the western entrance into Spring Lake on Lakeside Trail. The village will contribute an additional \$26,850 for the project.

Renaissance Zone for Ethanol Plant in Marysville to Create 30 New Jobs: The Governor announced approval of a tax-free Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone in Marysville to support the construction of the Marysville Ethanol production plant. The company will invest \$95 million in the project and create 30 new jobs. The designation of the tax-free Renaissance Zone was approved by the Michigan State Administrative Board on September 20. Making Michigan a leader in alternative energy technology is a key component of the Governor's Jobs for Michigan Fund initiative, a measure that would provide \$2 billion for the development and commercialization of emerging technology in the state. The initiative's goal is to create thousands of new, good-paying jobs for Michigan workers in newer, high-growth industry sectors. Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones are geographical areas designated as tax free for eligible agricultural processing companies that plan to build a new facility or significantly improve an existing facility within the zone. The 42-acre zone for Marysville Ethanol will remain free of state and local taxes for seven years and thus help the facility on its way to profitability. Two additional ethanol plants recently broke ground in Barry and Calhoun counties with the assistance of Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone designations.

Comcast, Systems Technologies to Expand in Sterling Heights, Troy: Company expansions in Sterling Heights and Troy that will create up to 836 new jobs through more than \$6.7 million in private investment were announced by Governor Granholm on September 20. Incentives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation were instrumental in convincing the companies to choose Michigan over competing sites in the United States and abroad. The companies expanding are:

- Comcast Corporation, a leading provider of communications products and services, will invest \$4.5 million to expand its existing call center in Sterling Heights. The project will create a total of 292 new jobs, including 92 indirect jobs as a result of the increased economic activity resulting from the expansion. A Single Business Tax credit valued at more than \$2.5 million over 12 years helped convince the company to expand in Michigan over a competing site in Minnesota. The city of Sterling Heights and Macomb Community College have offered a total of \$48,500 to assist Comcast with various employee recruitment activities to further support the project.
- Systems Technology Group, a global provider of IT consulting and software services, will invest \$2.2 million to expand at its existing headquarters in Troy. The project will create 544 new jobs, including 356 high-tech jobs directly by the company. A Single Business Tax credit valued at more than \$4.8 million for up to eight years helped convince the company to expand in Michigan over a competing site in India. The city of Troy has proposed contributing \$45,000 to help STG make the necessary building or road improvements to accommodate the expansion.

Governor Signs Law to Create Jobs in Delta Township: Public Act 118, signed by Governor Granholm on September 22, will bring an estimated 750 new jobs to Eaton County's Delta Township. By broadening the definition of companies eligible for tax abatements, the new law will benefit Ryder Supply Chain Solutions, a moving truck rental firm, which has committed to locate in the community.



Griffin Forum panelists and distinguished guests (from left to right) Bill Ballenger, Tom Walsh, Won Paik, Marjorie Griffin, Senator Griffin, Sharon Miller, Michael Rao, Alan Gilmour, Monica Rao, Daniel Howes, and David Hollister.

Hollister Participates in CMU's Griffin Policy Forum: Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director David Hollister served on a panel for the October Griffin Policy Forum at Central Michigan University. The forum, moderated by Griffin Endowed Chairman Bill Ballenger, also featured Alan Gilmour, retired Ford vice chairman; Daniel Howes, business columnist and associate business editor for the Detroit News; Sharon Miller, president of Immediate Temporary Help Inc.; and Tom Walsh, chief business columnist for the Detroit Free Press. The next Griffin Policy Forum will take place in CMU's spring semester.

Fostering Vibrant Michigan Cities and Urban Centers

MEDC Announces Funding for Plan to Attract Investment, Jobs to Branch County: The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced an \$18,750 grant to Branch County for a comprehensive market study to promote economic development county-wide. The MEDC is making the grant available with funds provided by the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The county will conduct a planning study to develop an effective market analysis of the area's commercial and industrial sectors, including an assessment of the current and potential availability of office, retail, service and industrial space. The county and the communities of Quincy, Bronson and Coldwater will contribute an additional \$16,250 toward the project.

Granholm Announces Funding to Support Riverfront Redevelopment in Bay City: The Uptown at RiversEdge in Bay City announced by Governor Granholm on October 4, will spur new development along the Saginaw River. A grant of \$250,000 in support of the project is being made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through the Core Communities Fund to encourage development in urban communities. Bay City is among 102 designated core communities and SmartZones eligible for the funding. Consisting of 48 acres of waterfront property, the Uptown will transform a former industrial site along the Saginaw River into a unique mix of residential and commercial uses that will create a vibrant and exciting new neighborhood in Bay City. The city will use the Core Communities grant to construct a new roadway that will serve as the gateway into the site and install water and storm sewers, lighting and additional streetscaping along the first block of 11th Street Boulevard between Washington Avenue and Saginaw Street.

Funding for Cadillac Downtown Development Study Awarded by MEDC: The Michigan Economic Development Corporation on September 29 announced a \$27,500 grant to the city of Cadillac for a feasibility and area-wide market study to determine the best use of the historic Cobbs & Mitchell building in downtown Cadillac. The MEDC is making the grant available with funds provided by the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The city will conduct an area market study and evaluate the building to determine market demand and physical improvements necessary to attract future tenants. The building is currently occupied but will be vacant within a year.

Governor Announces Assistance for Downtown Redevelopment in Hancock: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced on September 29 a grant of \$155,000 to the Upper Peninsula community of Hancock to support the renovation of the former Scott Hotel. The mixed-use project will include retail and senior housing space, and is expected to create new jobs as the result of more than \$3.1 million in private investment. The grant is being made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with funds provided by the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The city will use the grant to construct a public parking lot and install an elevator to service the building. The first floor of the five-story structure will contain commercial space and those remaining will be converted into residential units for seniors. Only the first floor of the building has been occupied since the early 1960s. Hancock will contribute \$17,220 towards the project.

Online Search Now Available For Tax-Reverted Properties: The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority has added a new feature to its website enabling consumers to search for tax reverted properties available for purchase. DLEG's Land Bank Fast Track Authority worked in partnership with the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT) to make it easier for consumers to find information about available properties and help expedite the sale of property. The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority was created in 2003 with the mission of returning blighted tax reverted properties to productive and economically viable use. The Authority is directed to dispose of property in a manner and for an amount that is considered proper, fair, valuable, and in the best interest of the community. "This new online feature will free up Land Bank Fast Track Authority staff, who answer several calls a day from people inquiring about property availability. Now they can devote more of their time to expediting the sale of properties, which ultimately benefits our communities and neighborhoods," Hollister said. "This new online service is in keeping with the authority's mission of ridding our urban areas of blighted properties and encouraging housing and business investments as quickly and efficiently as possible." Along with the capabilities to search the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority's website for available properties, the website also has links to other counties and cities throughout Michigan that have property search capabilities in their regions, including the cities of Flint, Detroit, Saginaw as well as Hillsdale and Wayne counties. Additional information about the Property Search is available by visiting <http://www.michigan.gov/landbank>.

Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor Adds High-Tech "Clean Room": A \$250,000 grant to the city of Benton Harbor will be used by Lake Michigan College to add a "clean room" at its M-TEC (Michigan Technical Education Center). The high-tech facility will allow the college to expand its training program into nanotechnology and other high-tech fields. The grant is being made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through the Core Communities Fund to spur development in urban communities and traditional centers of commerce. The M-TEC at Lake Michigan College provides training in high-skill industrial technologies and offers certificate and degree programs in drafting and design, electronics, industrial maintenance, and machine tool and home appliance technology.

Leading National Lists

Detroit-Warren-Livonia Named Nation's #5 Logistics Metro: Expansion Management magazine ranked Detroit-Warren-Livonia as #5 on the list of "Top Logistics Metros in the United States." The publication's 5th annual evaluation of the logistics infrastructure throughout the country appears in the September issue and is available online. It compares the overall transportation and warehousing industry climate in 10 major categories, including workforce and labor costs, road and highway spending, fuel taxes and rail, water, air and interstate highway access.

U-M, MSU Business Schools Among Recruiters' Top Picks: The 2005 *Wall Street Journal/Harris Interactive* business-school ranking published September 21 placed the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business #2 of 19 on the U.S. list, while Michigan State University's Broad School of Business was #2 of 47 Regional schools. The rankings measure how appealing the schools are to recruiters of M.B.A. talent.

Making Michigan a Leader in the Global Economy

Michigan Ranked Second in Nation for New Capital Investments: According to the first annual U.S. Investment Monitor by Ernest & Young LLP, the international accounting and consulting firm, Michigan ranks second in the nation for major corporate capital investments. Michigan attracted \$6.5 billion in major corporate capital investments involving 213 projects and 32,474 new jobs last year, second only to Texas. A key factor was Michigan's success in attracting international investment. International companies accounted for 21 percent of planned capital expenditures in Michigan, representing the third highest level of foreign investment in the nation. The top five states -- Texas, Michigan, Ohio, California and New York -- attracted nearly 40 percent of total capital investment in the nation during 2004. According to the report, "Michigan lives up to its reputation as the nation's automotive capital." Michigan attracted 45 percent of the total auto industry U.S. investment of \$14.5 billion.

Granholt Talks Jobs with Michigan Communities: In the first of a series of community conversations on the economy, Governor Granholt met Oct. 11 with workers and parents in Saginaw and Mt. Pleasant to discuss Michigan's economy and her five-point plan to create jobs. "This week's economic news should serve as another reminder that we cannot wait to create jobs, to diversify our economic base, or to send more of our children to college," said Granholt. "Our economy – and our citizens – demand urgency." The Governor's economic proposal will ensure that Michigan businesses and workers can compete and win in the new global marketplace. Granholt proposed legislation to restructure business taxes in Michigan in order to keep jobs here, fast-forward public infrastructure projects to create thousands of jobs today, match unemployed citizens with businesses that need workers right now, make college accessible to all, and invest up to \$2 billion in Michigan's 21st century economy.



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Putting Michigan on the Cutting Edge of Technology

Ypsilanti-Based Tech firm Wins Patent for Medical Sensor: Integrated Sensing Systems Incorporated (ISSYS), the Ypsilanti-based microsystems company and Michigan Life Sciences Corridor/Technology Tri-Corridor funding recipient, has secured a key patent for its dime-sized medical sensor designed to reduce the number of patient deaths due to drug delivery errors. The company is in discussions with major medical device makers on potential partnerships leading to commercialization.

U-M Medical School Wins National Center for Integrative Biomedical Informatics: The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$18.7 million to the University of Michigan Medical School for a National Center for Integrative Biomedical Informatics, one of seven centers nationwide and the only one not located in California or the Northeast. The state's Core Technology Alliance (CTA), created with the help of \$10.3 million from the Michigan Technology Tri-Corridor, will provide the R&D support necessary to establish the center. The federal funding, which will support accelerated biomedical research by making large scale data integration, systems modeling and analysis available to the NIH research community, represents a return of two federal dollars for every state dollar invested. Overall the State has invested \$65 million in the CTA since 2000.

University of Michigan Creates Center for Stem Cell Biology: The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor is establishing a new interdisciplinary center for stem cell biology, to be based at the school's Life Sciences Institute (LSI). The center will recruit up to seven faculty members whose labs will be located in the LSI, the University of Michigan Medical School or in the University of Michigan's Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute (MBNI). It will be launched with \$10.5 million in funding provided by the medical school, the LSI and the MBNI. The University of Michigan Medical School hosts one of three National Institutes of Health-funded human embryonic stem cell research centers.

Pilot Program at U.P. SmartZone Will Hire Students: A pilot program run by Michigan Technological University, the Michigan Tech Enterprise SmartZone, the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance and Technisource's Michigan office will hire 15 MTU students to provide engineering design services for Technisource clients under MTU's cooperative education program at the SmartZone's Portage Campus Building incubator. The tech services company, based in Little Rock, has 31 offices around the country. For more information, see <http://www.mtecsmart.com>.

Growing Entrepreneurs

Statewide Procurement Offices Help Companies Win Post-Katrina Contracts: The Michigan Economic Development Corporation will help Michigan companies seeking to win government contracts to provide products and services for Hurricane Katrina relief through its statewide network of 13 Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs). Companies can find information on the "Hurricane Katrina Contracting Opportunities" part of the MEDC's Web site at <http://www.michigan.org>. The PTACs are non-profits funded by the Federal Defense Logistics Agency in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and its local partners. They support national security by ensuring a broad base of capable suppliers for the Department of Defense and other agencies. PTACs assist Michigan businesses in obtaining and delivering on federal, state and local government contracts. Each of the 13 Michigan offices is staffed by highly skilled professionals who offer help with preparing bids, targeting government markets, getting placement on vendor lists and other services including educational seminars and conferences.

MEDC Launches Online Minority Business Development Events Calendar: Michigan Economic Development Corporation President and CEO James Epolito announced on October 4 the launch of a year-round, online calendar of minority business events to kick off the annual observance of Minority Business Development Month in October. The calendar covers a wide range of activities from networking events to entrepreneurial training and awards celebrations. It can be viewed at <http://www.michigan.org/minority-calendar>. According to the latest U.S. Census data, Michigan is home to more than 35,000 minority-owned firms.

Michigan Ranked #5 Small Business-Friendly State: Michigan improved its ranking to fifth place on the Small Business Survival Index 2005 compiled by the Washington, D.C.-based Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, up from sixth last year. Governor Jennifer Granholm, announcing the ranking on October 13, said that of 6,118 personal business visits made by Michigan Economic Development Corporation account managers in 2004, 70 percent of them were with companies with fewer than 100 employees. She also noted that small Michigan research and tech businesses have been recipients of commercialization funding through the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor and Technology Tri-Corridor initiatives over the past five years. The state's network of 13 PTACs, or Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, serves to help smaller companies gain access to state and federal contracting opportunities. In addition, Michigan is one of only five states with a Small Business Technology Development Center network accredited to provide technology support to small and micro businesses. The state's 12 SBTDCs assisted 10,276 small businesses last year, 15 percent of them technology-based. The SBE Council's annual ranking analyzes 26 major government-imposed or government-related costs affecting small businesses and entrepreneurs. The top five entrepreneur-friendly states under the Small Business Survival Index are South Dakota, Nevada, Wyoming, Washington and Michigan. Details are available at <http://www.sbecouncil.org>.

Promoting Manufacturing Industry

Top Leaders at the Governor's Workplace Safety and Health Forum Share Their Strategies for Success: DLEG Director David Hollister, welcomed more than 250 manufacturing employers from across the state to the Governor's Workplace Safety and Health



Wes Smith, president of E & E Manufacturing, was interviewed by DLEG Director David Hollister at the Governor's Workplace Safety and Health Forum. The interview will appear on DLEG's "Consumer's Corner" cable show, which will air on cable stations across the state in December in honor of MIO SHA's 30th anniversary.

Forum on Nov. 3. Held at Macomb Community College, the forum continues Governor Granholm's focus on "Manufacturing Matters" in Michigan. Top executives from Michigan's "Best of the Best" companies shared their stories of business successes, while creating a safe and healthful work environment for their employees. Representing a wide range of manufacturing environments, all shared a message of increasing competitiveness through strong worker safety and health efforts. "With the UAW and MIO SHA as our partners, we've worked long and hard to make significant improvements during the last six years, in one of the most challenging work environments," said Roman J. Krygier, Group Vice President, Global Manufacturing, Ford Motor Company. "Today, we are proud to say MIO SHA advocates some of Ford's safety practices to other employers." These employers, with a strong safety and health system, report not only reductions in injuries and illnesses, but also positive bottom line benefits, including: Lower workers' compensation costs, increased productivity, increased employee morale, and lower absenteeism and employee turnover. "Manufacturers are under tremendous global pressure. Having a highly-skilled workforce and keeping those workers healthy and safe are vital to Michigan's ability to compete with other states and other countries," said John "Mac" MacIlroy, President and CEO, Michigan Manufacturing Association. "Employers and employees have a shared responsibility for keeping the workplace safe, and both must do their part."

During roundtable sessions, companies shared their best practices, lessons learned, and how-to strategies including: Alcoa Howmet Castings, Brass Craft Manufacturing, The Dow Chemical Company, DTE Energy, E&E Manufacturing, Ford Motor Company, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Herman Miller, Huntsman Corporation, International Paper, and Johnson Technology. The Governor's Workplace Safety and Health Forum is part of outreach efforts to commemorate MIO SHA's 30th Anniversary through events that reemphasize the critical importance of workplace safety and health. Additional initiatives included: "Take a Stand Day," August 25th; and "Make a Difference Week," September 12th – 16th. More information on MIO SHA outreach activities can be found on the MIO SHA website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/miosha>, or by contacting the MIO SHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division at 517.322.1809.

Manufacturing Council Kicks Off Fundraising Drive: The Capital Area Manufacturing Council, a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance, recently kicked off a 90-day fundraising drive to raise the final dollars needed for the Oct. 2005 through Sept. 2006 operating year. The council supports and strengthens the more than 400 local manufacturing businesses. Manufacturing firms, vendors, suppliers and supporters can join the council via an online application at <http://www.camconline.org>. Annual membership fees vary from \$150 to \$600 and are tax-deductible. Manufacturing leaders founded the Capital Area Manufacturing Council in 2004 to strengthen the industry in the changing economy. The council received funding Oct. 1, 2004, as a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance to operate for one year. Executive Director Robert C. Sherer has helped the council to raise more than 75 percent of the needed funds to continue operation. The council created an electronic communications network to seek assistance from fellow manufacturers and associates; conducts wage and compensation surveys; hosts membership meetings focused on unemployment insurance, manufacturing economic development efforts, lean manufacturing, state tax proposals and new training and hiring tools and brings in local, state and national legislators and manufacturing leaders to meet with members. The Capital Area Manufacturing Council was formed in 2004 as a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance in partnership with Capital Area Michigan Works!

MEDC Receives 16 Applications for Tax-Free Tool & Die Recovery Zones: The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced on September 27 that 16 applications have been received requesting designation for 12 remaining tax-free Tool & Die Recovery Zones in the second round of competition under the state's Renaissance Zone program. The following coalitions, representing a total of 95 Michigan tool and die companies, applied for the tax-free designations:

- Alliance CNC, Kent
- Automation & Tool Alliance of North America LLC, Jackson County
- Berrien Tooling Coalition, Berrien
- Blue Water Tooling Coalition, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe
- Central Michigan Collaborative, Montcalm, Ottawa, Osceola
- Custom Design Inc., Kalamazoo
- Eastern Michigan Tool & Die Collaborative, Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, Jackson, St. Clair (applications for 15-, 10- and 5-year tax abatements)
- Michigan Tooling Group, Allegan, Gratiot, Kent, Ottawa (10- and 15-year tax abatements)
- Precision Tooling Coalition, Ottawa, Kent
- Southwest Michigan Tooling Collaborative, Allegan, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph
- Tooling Advantage Group LLC, Muskegon, Ottawa
- West Coast Tooling Coalition, Allegan, Kent
- Whitehall Township Tooling Coalition, Kent, Muskegon

The MEDC is reviewing the eligibility and merits of each proposal, with Recovery Zone designations expected to be announced before the end of the year.

State Training Funds to Secure Jobs of 6,756 Employees at 90 Companies: Gov. Granholm announced in October that 14 grants totaling \$2,793,826 in Economic Development Job Training funds provided by the MEDC will be used to upgrade the skills of 5,894 current workers and 826 new hires at 90 companies around the state. Six of the grants were provided as part of the Manufacturing Competitiveness Program (MCP) designed to enhance the skills of the state's manufacturing workforce and encourage collaboration between regional employers. Four grants were provided through the MCP in cooperation with the Michigan Regional Skills Alliances. Information on the training providers and the companies benefiting from the EDJT grants is available on the MEDC Web site at <http://www.michigan.org>.

State Funds Totaling \$505,900 to Secure 966 Workers at Eight West Michigan Firms: A total of \$505,921 will be awarded in job training grants to upgrade the skills of 781 current workers and 185 new hires at eight west Michigan companies. The funding, provided by the MEDC, will underwrite state-of-the-art training specific to each company's needs in manufacturing processes, and equipment, quality, managerial and information technology skills. Under the terms of the award, a qualified educational institution will administer the training and each company will provide a minimum 25 percent funding match. The educational institutions and the companies benefiting from the Economic Development Job Training grants are:

- Dura Automotive Systems Inc., Fremont - \$30,000 for 60 existing workers; Grand Rapids Community College
- Hayes Lemmerz International, Montague - \$38,803 for 31 existing, 9 new workers; Muskegon Community College
- Kellogg Company, Grand Rapids - \$69,500 for 100 existing, 39 new workers; Grand Rapids Community College
- Michigan Spring & Stamping, Muskegon - \$62,500 for 100 existing, 25 new workers; Muskegon Community College
- Richard-Allan Scientific, Kalamazoo - \$35,000 for 75 existing, 12 new workers; Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
- Saturn Electronics and Engineering Inc., Coopersville - \$50,000 for 25 existing, 100 new workers; Grand Rapids Community College
- Stahlin Enclosures, Belding - \$44,937 for 90 existing workers; Grand Rapids Community College.
- Stryker, Kalamazoo - \$175,181 for 300 existing workers; Upjohn Institute of Employment Research.

Creating Cool: The Economy of Arts and Culture

Michigan Walk of Fame Creates New Tourist Attraction in State Capital: Honoring Michigan residents, past or present, who have made significant contributions to the state or nation, the Michigan Walk of Fame - set to be unveiled in May 2006 - is downtown Lansing's newest attraction. Located in the heart of Lansing's commercial district, the Michigan Walk of Fame is the first comprehensive walk of fame in the nation to honor resident contributions on a statewide basis. Located within walking distance of the State Capitol, the Michigan Library and Historical Center and a number of other museums and attractions, it will be accessible to visitors year-round. The Michigan Walk of Fame was conceived by the Lansing Principal Shopping District to celebrate the accomplishments of great Michiganders; promote Lansing as Michigan's capital city; and create a permanent tourist attraction in downtown Lansing, which is currently undergoing an economic revival. It will feature bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalks, each displaying information about the inductee's life and contribution. The first twelve inductees, two in each of six categories, will be unveiled during Michigan Week, May 20-26, 2006. Additional plaques honoring new inductees will be added annually. The Michigan Walk of Fame is accepting nominations for its first inductees through Dec. 2, 2005. Nominations can be made in six categories at <http://www.michiganwalkoffame.com>. The Michigan Walk of Fame is a strategic partnership between the Lansing Principal Shopping District/Downtown Lansing, Inc., Michigan Historical Museum and the City of Lansing.



'Art of Cool' Conference Planned for Dec. 8th in Lansing: Building on two successful conferences that helped more than 2,500 people identify and learn to leverage the links between arts and culture and economic development, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) will once again bring together cultural, government, civic and community leaders to discover future trends and model programs that can help Michigan communities achieve and sustain economic vitality. The Art of Cool: Linking Culture, Community and the Economy is MCACA's 11th annual meeting and will take place on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2005, at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. The conference - co-presented by the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth - is expected to draw more than 1,000 attendees from all regions of the state. "The Art of Cool" will begin with a look into the future as keynote presenter, Andrew Zolli, explores how business and culture need to work together to succeed. Mr. Zolli, author, forecaster and strategist, is one of a new generation of futurists helping organizations understand and respond to complex change. He is a regular commentator on the National Public Radio program, "Marketplace"; a contributor to American Demographics magazine; an "Emerging Explorer" with the National Geographic Society; and the "Futurist-in-Residence" at Popular Science magazine. His book, *Catalog of Tomorrow*, features essays exploring 100 trends and technologies that will shape the next 25 years. The conference will also feature sessions exploring ways in which Michigan communities can employ creative strategies to address pressing challenges. These sessions will feature speakers drawn from Michigan and beyond who will share best practices, case studies and model experiences. Luncheon speaker Glen Murray, former Mayor of Winnipeg, will share his vision and experience from that city's very successful program and his work as an urban consultant. Mr. Murray works with civic leaders, citizens and cultural groups who know that successful local economies are increasingly driven by an important mix of assets including cultural resources, research and development capabilities and environmental attributes. Last year's popular Tips & Tools exhibit area has been expanded to accommodate additional state agency representatives, Cool Cities and Neighborhoods in Progress award designees, and other community-development experts. The Tips & Tools "Think Tank" will offer attendees an opportunity for one-on-one brainstorming meetings with these experts and conference presenters. Conference co-chairs Lillian Bauder, member of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and James C. Epolito, CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, expect "The Art of Cool" will inspire cultural, community, economic-development and government leaders to take the next steps in revitalizing Michigan's cities and towns through creative collaborative effort. Teams of individuals from local communities are encouraged to attend. Registration for a team of four is \$260 plus \$65 per additional person on or before Nov. 22 and \$320 plus \$80 per additional person thereafter. The registration fee for individuals is \$80 per person on or before Nov. 22 and \$95 thereafter. For more information, call Get Real! Communications at (734) 669-7192 or visit the conference Web site at <http://artofcoolconference.com>.



Revamped Michigan eLibrary Offers Valuable Business Information Resources: With an inviting new look and powerful new services that cut across a mix of information resources, the Michigan eLibrary is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week information tool that can help businesses work and learn smarter and faster. Available free to Michigan residents at www.mel.org, the Michigan eLibrary, or MeL, offers virtually limitless access to information - some of which Google and other search sites simply do not have access to - including:

- The General BusinessFile ASAP database, which provides access to company and industry profiles and performance reports as well as the latest business news and trends through trade and company publications and news sources.
- Millions of articles from thousands of magazines, newspapers and journals covering a range of subject areas - business and legal, science and technology, health, information for students and educators
- Thousands of general-interest electronic books, 100 practice tests for academic or career preparation, excerpts from reference books
- MeLCat, a valuable resource-sharing service that effectively lets users search for, locate and request books and materials from an ever-growing collection of participating libraries' holdings and have those materials delivered to their local library

MeL is a project of the Library of Michigan, Michigan's official state library agency for more than 175 years. If you need assistance using MeL or want information about other state library services, please call the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300.

Protecting Michigan Consumers

DLEG Suspends Builder's License: The Department of Labor & Economic Growth's Bureau of Commercial Services has suspended the residential builder's license of Willie R. Robinson, d/b/a National Construction Fencing, Southfield, effective Oct. 14, 2005. Robinson was notified on Oct. 25, 2005, that his license was suspended for failure to comply with a stipulated agreement signed in the matter of a complaint that had been filed by a resident of Detroit. He had been charged with poor workmanship and failure to comply with building codes. This past summer, he had admitted to the violations and agreed to pay a fine of \$1,000 to the state of Michigan within 60 days of the final order, which was issued July 29, 2005. He also agreed to make restitution in the amount of \$2,000, but failed to do so.

MPSC Establishes Emergency Rules for Electric and Gas Bills from November 1 through March 31, 2006: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today established emergency billing practices, from Nov. 1 through March 31, 2006, for retail customers of electric and gas utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. The rules now go to Governor Granholm for her concurrence and then will be transmitted to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules and to the Legislative Service Bureau for their approvals. The emergency rules, in place from Nov. 1 through March 31, 2006 call for the following changes:

- The due date for all utility service bills cannot be less than 22 calendar days from the date the bill was transmitted to the customer. (The current rule is 17 days for residential customers and 21 days for businesses.)
- The utility may not shut off service or charge a late payment fee for failure to pay an estimated bill by the due date, unless the customer is subsequently delinquent on a bill using an actual read. (The current rule allows for shutoffs and late payment fees on estimated bills.)
- The required monthly payment for an electric or gas customer pursuant to a settlement agreement cannot exceed \$50 plus: the amount of the customer's monthly electric bill; the amount of the customer's gas bill; or for a combined bill, the sum of the monthly electric and natural gas bills. (The current rule does not contain a cap on settlement agreements.)
- The utility cannot shutoff service to a residential customer who is 65 years of age or older and advises the utility of this, or whose household income does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty level, provided the customer pays a monthly amount equal to 6 percent of the customer's estimated annual bill. (The current rule is 150 percent of the poverty level and 7 percent of the estimated annual bill, plus a portion of any past due amount.)
- The utility cannot require a deposit from a customer unless that customer has been shutoff for nonpayment during the prior 12 months. A customer deposit under this rule may not exceed the average monthly bill. (The current rule allows for deposits for residential customers for 17 different reasons. The current deposit may be not more than twice the average peak season monthly bill for residential customers. For businesses, the current rule allows for a three-month deposit and also permits deposits under other conditions.)

Governor Granholm Declares November 13-19 as Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm issued an Executive Declaration in observance of Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week from November 13-19, 2005 to educate parents, senior citizens and other consumers about safety tips to prevent avoidable incidents and accidents. The Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation estimates that more than 575 million people ride elevators, escalators, and moving sidewalks daily. "The State of Michigan has nearly 26,000 elevators and escalators and every year we receive reports of incidents and accidents that may have been avoided if consumers followed common sense safety tips," said David C. Hollister, director of Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). "Children are considered the most at-risk of being injured so parents should recognize the importance of preventing children from riding elevators and escalators unattended and also not using strollers on escalators." DLEG's Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, Elevator Safety Division and Elevator Safety Board is responsible for the state's elevator, escalator, and dumbwaiter inspections; complaint investigations; reporting of elevator accidents; and issuing elevator contractor licenses. Many of the most serious injuries reported for elevators and escalators are due to falls, particularly involving riders over the age of 65 years old. For more tips: http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10573_11472-129801--,00.html.

Promoting Energy Efficiency

DLEG Now Accepting ENERGY STAR Grant Applications from Home Builders: DLEG is now accepting applications from builders for a grant pool of \$40,000 to build energy-efficient houses. The DLEG Energy Office will be awarding five federally-funded grants for up to \$8,000 each in the ENERGY STAR Home Grant program as an incentive for Michigan builders to utilize the latest technology to reduce energy costs and pollution. Applications can be obtained at the Energy Office web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice> under Residential programs or by contacting Pat Hudson at (517) 241-6154 or via e-mail at plhudso@michigan.gov. The deadline for the 2006 grants is December 15, 2005. Only licensed builders in good standing are eligible and builders can only submit one application. Previous Five Star Home grant winners are not eligible. The date of the application must precede the date of the building permit. House construction should be completed by December 31, 2006. The Five Star rating will be the minimum criterion. Selection will be based on energy efficiency, innovative features, and marketing plans. In an effort to feature Energy Star houses throughout the State, geographic location will be considered when reviewing the grant applications. Bonus points will be given to houses that have less than 2,000 square feet of livable space. Houses that feature less than 1,500 square feet of livable space will receive additional bonus points.

Rebuild Michigan Community Partners Request for Proposals Announced: The Energy Office is providing funding for communities to launch a Rebuild Michigan program in their area. Rebuild Michigan is designed to foster partnerships which promote increased energy efficiency within communities. The primary focus of this program is to reduce energy use in commercial, institutional, and multi-family buildings. Community applicants may include additional objectives such as developing renewable energy or alternative transportation fuels. Applicants must be represented by a local unit of government or an energy related non-profit or other similar organization. Communities that do not require funding to develop an energy action plan and/or projects but want access to the program's information and technical resources and recognition as a Rebuild Michigan Community must submit a proposal to be considered. The maximum grant award is \$24,900. Proposals are due on December 5, 2005. For a copy of the RFP contact Tom Krupiarz at (517) 241-6184 or by e-mail: takrupi@michigan.gov. Visit the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth/Energy Office web-site at <http://www.michigan.gov/eorebuild> for additional information.

MPSC Releases Winter Energy Appraisal, Natural Gas Prices Expected to Rise 46 Percent During Heating Months

Compared to Last Winter: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) released the "Michigan Energy Appraisal: Winter 2005/2006." The appraisal, published since 1978, reviews the projected prices and availability of energy in Michigan over the winter months. In addition to the high cost of gasoline and large electric bills, due to the hot summer this year, home heating bills are also expected to show sharp increases this coming winter. Most notably, natural gas prices are expected to be even higher than preliminary estimates suggested. Residential natural gas customers in Michigan this year can expect monthly heating bills to average 46 percent above last winter. Natural gas prices are expected to average \$12.30 per Mcf over the winter months this year compared to \$8.42 last winter. Michigan customers are still paying less than prices seen in other parts of the country and historically have had lower prices than other Midwest states. In New England, natural gas prices for residential customers could go as high as \$20 per Mcf. The energy supply system remains fragile and it will be months before the nation's energy supply returns to more normal operations following the damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For more information on how to hold down heating bills by energy efficiency investments and for low income consumers who need assistance with their heating bills see: <http://michigan.gov/bewinter-wise>.

MPSC to Review, Make Recommendations on Energy Efficiency Programs: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today issued an order directing the MPSC staff to prepare an overview of electric and natural gas energy efficiency programs in Michigan and elsewhere and to make recommendations in a report by Jan. 17, 2006. Following the issuance of the report, the MPSC will hold public hearings to review the report's findings and to develop a consensus on a course of action. Noting the spike in energy costs in recent years, the Commission said Michigan remains vulnerable to increases in energy costs because its many industries rely on imported natural gas and because 80 percent of Michigan households use natural gas for space heating. "Natural gas prices have nearly tripled in recent years," said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. "The impact of the recent hurricanes has only made the need for a multi-faceted, efficient and effective approach to this situation more important. A thorough review of energy efficiency programs in Michigan and elsewhere will help us implement practical, cost-effective and achievable suggestions to reduce energy demand. Improving energy efficiency for Michigan's homes and businesses can only help bolster the overall economic climate in the state." The MPSC directed its staff to provide an overview of energy efficiency programs that are currently being implemented in both the natural gas and electric sectors in Michigan and other states. It will also include a review of what can be done to achieve gains in energy efficiency in Michigan, including educational and technical assistance programs, utility rate restructuring, efficiency incentive programs, grant and loan programs, or other innovative financing options. Staff recommendations will include alternatives designed to improve energy efficiency, make energy utility services more affordable for ratepayers, and enhance the state's economy.

New Michigan Energy Demonstration Unveiled: Pat Hudson, DLEG's Energy Office, spoke at the Grand Opening of the new Michigan Energy Demonstration Center at Northwestern Michigan College's Michigan Technical Education Center. The new Demonstration Center offers information on state-of-the-art energy efficiency equipment, materials and methods on saving money for energy bills. Hudson and Northwestern Michigan College also participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. For tips from the Energy Office on saving money with your home heating bill, visit http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-25676_25692-42956--,00.html.



Pat Hudson, DLEG's Energy Office, spoke at the Grand Opening of the new Michigan Energy Demonstration Center at Northwestern Michigan College's Michigan Technical Education Center.

MPSC: Change a Light to See Big Electric Savings: With soaring energy costs, Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Chairman J. Peter Lark today encouraged Michigan electric customers to reduce their electric bills by switching to energy efficient lighting products that can result in big savings. Lark made the announcement at a press conference at Urban Options in East Lansing as part of the national Change a Light, Change the World education campaign, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). "If every household in Michigan acts by switching only one light at home to an energy efficient model, the change would save more than \$25 million in energy costs annually and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking more than 38,000 cars off the road," said Lark. "If you're still using incandescent bulbs, you're wasting a lot of energy and money, and creating a lot of unnecessary pollution." It is estimated that by replacing the five most frequently used light fixtures in a home with ENERGY STAR models, customers can save more than \$60 per year in energy costs." Lark noted that ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs save at least \$25 each over their lifetime in energy costs; last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs; use two-thirds less energy; can be used in most incandescent fixtures already in the home; and offer bright, warm light. To promote energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed November 1 as "Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Day." ENERGY STAR was introduced by the EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the DOE, the ENERGY STAR program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money, and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 7,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes, and businesses. People are encouraged to take the ENERGY STAR "Change a Light" pledge on its Web site: <http://www.energystar.gov>. For more information about ENERGY STAR is also available toll-free by calling 1-888-STAR-YES.

Michigan Energy Office Awards Energy Education Grants to Five School Districts: Five school districts have received Energy Smart Schools Energy Education grants totaling \$28,430 from the Michigan Energy Office. The grant recipients are: Fraser Public Schools (Grant Amount: \$3,031, City: Fraser); Huron Intermediate School District (Grant Amount: \$6,500, City: Bad Axe); Laker School District (Grant Amount: \$6,500, City: Pigeon); Marion Public Schools (Grant Amount: \$5,971, City: Marion); and Riverview Community School District (Grant Amount: \$6,428, City: Riverview). The energy education grants will be used to introduce energy efficiency and renewable energy curriculum into the classroom. Curriculum materials were provided by the National Energy Education Development Association (NEED), a Rebuild America strategic partner. All five districts have begun incorporating energy education into their curriculum and are supplementing classroom lessons with extra-curricular energy activities such as a solar powered car competition, an energy club and an energy fair that will encourage others in the districts to participate. All the grants are active until the end of this school year. Funding for the grant was made available through the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant is administered by the DLEG's Energy Office through the Rebuild Michigan Program <http://www.michigan.gov/eorebuild>.

Safeguarding Michigan's Environment

MPSC Approves Eight Consumers Energy Power Purchase Agreements for Renewable Energy Projects in Michigan: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved on Oct. 18 seven new power purchase agreements and one renegotiated agreement for Consumers Energy's renewable energy projects in Michigan. "Customers of Consumers Energy now have more opportunity than ever before to choose electricity generated by renewable resources, resulting in a cleaner environment and less reliance on fossil fuels," said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. The Commission approved the following agreements:

- Bay Windpower I, Mackinaw City, L.L.C. – This agreement replaces the previous contractual relationship between Consumers Energy and Bay Windpower I, Mackinaw City, L.L.C. that governed the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy generated from the 1,800 kilowatt (kW) design capacity wind powered plant located at Mackinaw City.
- Gas Recovery Systems, L.L.C. – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy generated from the C&C Electric Plant 2, a landfill gas fueled generation facility to be constructed in Calhoun County.
- Mackinaw Power LLC – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at a yet-to-be constructed wind power facility.
- Noble Thumb Windpark I, LLC – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at a yet-to-be constructed wind power park consisting of approximately 32 wind powered turbine generators to be constructed near Ubyly, Mich.
- North American Natural Resources, Inc. (Peoples Generating Station – Fourth Generating Unit) – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at the previously idled landfill gas fueled generating facility located in Saginaw County. The parties also specified that, due to a shortfall in landfill gas, the designated location of the plant could be shifted to another location somewhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.
- North American Natural Resources, Inc. (Venice Park Generating Station – Second Generating Unit) – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at a previously constructed landfill gas fueled generating facility located in Shiawassee County. The parties also specified that, due to a shortfall in landfill gas, the designated location of the plant could be shifted to another location somewhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.
- North American Natural Resources Inc. (White Lake Landfill Generating Facility) – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at a yet-to-be constructed landfill gas fueled generating facility located in Muskegon County. The parties also specified that, due to a shortfall in landfill gas, the designated location of the plant could be shifted to another location somewhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.
- Zeeland Farm Services, Inc. – This agreement governs the purchase by Consumers Energy of electric energy at a yet-to-be constructed landfill gas fueled generating facility. The parties also specified that, due to a shortfall in landfill gas, the designated location of the plant could be shifted to another location somewhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Protecting Worker Safety

Clark Construction Presented with Prestigious State Award for Outstanding Safety & Health Performance: Clark Construction Company has received the prestigious CET Gold Award from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division recognizes the safety and health achievements of Michigan employers and employees through CET Awards, which are based on excellent safety and health performance. "The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries in Michigan," said DLEG Deputy Director Bob Swanson. "We are especially pleased to honor Clark Construction's outstanding record of more than one million hours without a lost-time accident. They are truly one of Michigan's outstanding corporate citizens." Clark Construction was also the first Michigan construction company to join Michigan AGC and MIOSHA in a landmark government/industry safety alliance designed to protect the safety and health of Michigan's construction workers.



Clark Construction Company has received the prestigious CET Gold Award from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA).

Georgia-Pacific's Premier Packaging Facility Receives

State's Highest Safety and Health Award: Georgia-Pacific Corporation's Premier Packaging Albion facility received the Michigan Voluntary Protection Program (MVPP) Star Award from MIOSHA. This is the most prestigious safety and health award given in Michigan. MIOSHA established the MVPP program in 1996 to recognize employers actively working toward achieving excellence in workplace safety and health. Since 1999, Michigan has recognized 18 MVPP Star companies. The incidence rates at the Georgia-Pacific Albion facility are well below the Michigan average for their SIC code 2653, Corrugated & Solid Fiber Boxes. Georgia-Pacific's Premier Corrugated sheet-feeder plant employs 74 workers and specializes in manufacturing corrugated sheets in single-wall and double-wall for its industrial based customers. The MIOSHA review team conducted 28 formal and 22 informal interviews during the site visit. The team examined each of the required elements of their safety and health management system, and found them to effectively address the scope and complexity of the hazards at the site. The Georgia-Pacific corporate safety statement reads, in part: "We recognize that there is no goal



Georgia-Pacific Corporation's Premier Packaging Albion facility received MIOSHA's Michigan Voluntary Protection Program (MVPP) Star Award, which is the most prestigious safety and health award given in Michigan.

more important than having every employee go home safely every day, which is why accident prevention is everyone's responsibility. All employees are expected to follow safe work practices to ensure their own safety as well as the safety of their fellow employees. By doing so, we can keep our facilities in the top tier of safe working environments in industry." Georgia-Pacific's corporate dedication and commitment to health and safety excellence is exemplified by their many facilities that have achieved Star status in federal OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). To date, Georgia-Pacific has 70 certified VPP sites. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of tissue, packaging, paper, building products and related chemicals.

The Christman Company Receives Receives MIOSHA Gold Award: The Christman Company recently received the MIOSHA Gold Award for an outstanding safety and health record. The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries in Michigan. Only about four percent of Michigan's workforce is employed in construction-however, construction fatalities account for more than 40 percent of all fatal workplace accidents. "As a construction services firm, The Christman Company represents a high-hazard industry and has worked diligently to achieve an injury-free work environment," said DLEG Director David C. Hollister. "This award recognizes the company's outstanding efforts to protect the safety and health of its workers. A recognition made even more distinct by the unprecedented number of hours Christman has logged-over 2.1 million to date-without a lost-time accident." The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division recognizes the safety and health achievements of Michigan employers and employees through CET Awards, which are based on excellent safety and health performance. The CET Gold Award recognizes achievement of a range of 100,000 to 2,000,000 continuous hours worked (based on the employer's size and type of business) without lost days.



Christman Company celebrated over 2.1 million hours to date-without a lost-time accident.

Michigan Rubber Products Receives Ergonomic Innovation Award: Michigan Rubber Products received the Ergonomic Innovation Award on Oct. 17 from MIOSHA. Local and state officials congratulated the company and their employees on their outstanding achievement. The Ergonomic Innovation Award is issued to employers for creative and effective ideas that have been implemented to reduce worker strain. Ergonomic improvements help employees work safely without needing to over-lift, over-reach, sit or stand too long, or use awkward postures. Michigan Rubber has made extensive ergonomic improvements in their plants, which has significantly reduced musculoskeletal injuries. For nearly 30 years, Michigan Rubber Products has provided components, systems, and solutions of the highest quality to the automotive, heavy truck, recreation, appliance and industrial markets utilizing cutting edge technologies and a thorough integration of industrial disciplines. With 390 employees, Michigan Rubber manufactures engineered rubber products for the automotive industry in four categories: engine air induction hoses and assemblies, noise vibration dampers, tubing components, and static seals and gaskets.



Michigan Rubber Products received the Ergonomic Innovation Award on Oct. 17 from MIOSHA.



Signing the alliance were: Doug Kalinowski, MIOSHA Director; Barbara Clark, Vice President, Economic & Workforce Development, Macomb Community College; David Hollister, DLEG Director; and Dr. Albert Lorenzo, President, Macomb Community College.

MIOSHA and Macomb Community College Sign Alliance to Protect Workers: Macomb Community College and MIOSHA signed a formal alliance to help protect the safety and health of Michigan's workers. Alliances enable organizations committed to workplace safety and health to collaborate with MIOSHA to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. This is MIOSHA's first alliance with a community college. A key goal of the alliance is the establishment of a pilot MIOSHA Training Institute at Macomb's M-TEC, with a specific core curriculum. Macomb's Workforce Development Institute is in a unique position not only to facilitate meaningful collaboration with local business and industry but also to provide hands-on training opportunities by combining key stakeholder resources with the college's M-TEC and Emergency Services Training Center facilities. Macomb's comprehensive Workforce Development Institute will administer the alliance. The Institute is focused on main-

taining Michigan's competitive edge in the global economy—assisting industry in sustaining a highly skilled workforce and supporting meaningful employment opportunities. The college's workforce development and training programs are developed in conjunction with the business and labor community, and are headquartered in Macomb's M-TEC. For more information about forming an alliance or partnership with MIOSHA, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/miosha> or contact the Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division at 517.322.1809.

Helping Low- and Moderate-Income Michiganians

Wellness Plan Improves Health Care Service to Detroit Citizens: Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) Commissioner Linda A. Watters—in her capacity as court-appointed Rehabilitator for The Wellness Plan—announced that she has applied for Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) “look-alike” status for the network of clinics operated by The Wellness Plan (TWP). Approval of FQHC “look-alike” status will enable TWP to get federal reimbursement for primary care services provided to uninsured citizens at TWP clinics. FQHC designation will also help Detroit hospitals by providing them with a place where they can refer the uninsured who need primary care, rather than by providing it through their emergency rooms. Currently, only Detroiters who receive their coverage from Medicare, Medicaid or a commercial plan can receive treatment at TWP clinics. “This is a triple dip for Detroit,” said Watters. “This benefits The Wellness Plan, Detroit hospitals, and increases access to high quality primary care for those without insurance.” The new FQHC “look-alike” status demonstrates a continued commitment from The Wellness Plan to serve uninsured Detroit residents. For additional information about The Wellness Plan, please visit the OFIS web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/ofis> and click on Who We Regulate, The Wellness Plan, Rehabilitation Documents.



MSHDA's Executive Director Michael DeVos and Board Chair Florise Neville-Ewell talk to First Gentleman Daniel Granholm Mulhern as he guest hosted DLEG's "Consumer's Corner" cable show. The show on MSHDA and Homeless Awareness Week airs in November.

MSHDA Spearheading Efforts to End Homelessness: Governor Granholm has proclaimed that November 13-19, 2005 will be designated as Homeless Awareness Week for the state of Michigan with the theme, "We End it Here. We End it Now." Homeless Awareness Week is a statewide campaign to educate the public about the many reasons people are homeless, the shortage of affordable housing for low income people, and the diligent work that homeless assistance providers are doing to bring relief to those most in need. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), in association with the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, spearheaded the drive. On a year-round basis, MSHDA administers federal money as well as its own funds to finance a variety of programs designed to expand the supply of housing services for the homeless. Homelessness affects every community in Michigan - all age groups, all racial and ethnic groups, and families with children as well as individuals. The truth about homelessness contradicts the stereotypical chronic alcoholic and street person suffering from mental illness. Studies show that between 35-40 percent of people experiencing homelessness are families and children. Children are the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness. Today, the average age of a homeless person in this country is nine years old. Statewide, more than 750

providers of shelter and services bring help to homeless families and individuals. Tens of thousands of people sleep in emergency shelters in Michigan each night, and many others take refuge in cars, campsites, abandoned buildings, and other places unsuitable for humans to reside. As a result, an accurate number of homeless people in Michigan is hard to obtain. For more information visit <http://www.mihomeless.org>.

MPSC Approves \$41 Million in Grants to Seven Organizations for Low-Income Energy Assistance: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) awarded on Oct. 18 seven organizations \$41 million in grants to help low-income utility customers with their bills. The grants come from the Low-Income and Energy Assistance Fund. "With the alarming spike in natural gas prices, it is more important than ever that low-income customers get the help they need to keep the heat on this winter," said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark. "The Commission is expediting this \$41 million in grants to organizations that can get it into the hands of those who need it most." The order approves grants to the following nine organizations:

- **Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS)** -- \$26,525,000 in total, with \$20,525,000 for the State Emergency Relief program and to prevent threatened shutoff of energy services and \$6 million to restore energy services already disconnected.
- **Downriver Community Conference** -- \$275,000 for energy assistance to low-income households in the Monroe and southern Wayne County areas.
- **Lighthouse Emergency Services** -- \$200,000 to assist clients in the Pontiac and Oakland County areas who are ineligible for assistance from the DHS or for whom such assistance is insufficient or would not be provided in time to avert an emergency.
- **Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA)** -- \$4,500,000 in total, with \$3 million for low-income direct energy assistance, \$1 million for deliverable fuels programs for low-income households, and \$500,000 to provide a two-to-one match for funds raised locally through the Walk for Warmth project.
- **Newaygo County** -- \$500,000 to assist clients in a 10-county area ineligible for the State Emergency Relief Program or for whom such assistance is insufficient or would not be available in time to avert an emergency.
- **The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW)** -- \$4,500,000 for the THAW LI/EE program.
- **Salvation Army** -- \$4,500,000 to serve households statewide ineligible for assistance from DHS or for whom such assistance is insufficient or not available.

Assisting Employers & Jobless Workers

Wage & Hour Follows Up on Chinese Buffet Restaurant Raids: In early June, state and federal wage and hour investigators accompanied Michigan State Police officers on raids at several Chinese buffet-style restaurants around the state. The restaurants were suspected of bilking the state and federal governments out of several million dollars in sales, unemployment and use taxes and of violating state and federal wage and hour laws. From these raids, three restaurants were referred by the U.S. Dept. of Labor to the Wage & Hour Division for investigation, as they fell under state jurisdiction with annual revenues of less than \$500,000. Two of the restaurants have closed since the raids because of financial reasons or health code violations. The third restaurant, in the Okemos area, received a follow-up visit from investigators in early October to go over the restaurant's payroll records. The investigators were looking for any potential violations of Michigan's minimum wage and/or payment of wage and fringe benefit laws.

UIA Steps Up to Help Louisiana Workers: The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) has stepped up to help Louisiana workers, who were left jobless by Hurricane Katrina. On September 15, 30 UIA staff members began taking phone calls from Louisiana workers who are applying for unemployment benefits. At the request of the U.S. Department of Labor, UIA began taking some of the calls going to a special toll-free telephone number that was set up to handle applications for unemployment benefits. Michigan is among seven states that are helping Louisiana to take applications for state unemployment benefits and federal disaster unemployment assistance. Louisiana, however, will determine if the callers are entitled to the benefits.

Minor Killed on the Job, Wage & Hour to Prosecute: The Wage & Hour Division, with the cooperation of the Ottawa County prosecutor, is taking an employer to court for violating the state's Youth Employment Standards Act. A minor died at the employer's scrap yard business in June when an automobile the youth was working underneath rolled off its supports crushing him. The Wage & Hour Division became involved when MIOSHA learned that the young man killed in the accident was a minor. A Wage & Hour investigator probed the case and cited the employer for having the minor operate heavy machinery in a hazardous occupation. The division took the case to the county prosecutor, who asked the investigator to swear out a warrant against the employer. A jury trial is forthcoming.

WCA Proposes Emergency Rules for Group Self-Insurers and PEOs: The Workers' Compensation Agency (WCA) has proposed an emergency rule governing group self-insurers and the circumstances under which professional employee leasing companies can join a self-insurer group fund. If adopted, the rule will provide group self-insurers with the information needed to determine if an applicant is an employee leasing company and to whom it will be leasing employees. The information will give group funds accurate underwriting data for assessing potential risk for their members. Employee leasing companies can pose a threat to group self-insurers. In other states where oversight of membership requirements was lacking, group self-insurer programs have ceased operations and/or suffered significant loss and financial issues. The proposed emergency rule sets forth ownership requirements that will assure that employee leasing firms can only use those employment risk classifications that WCA has approved for underwriting by the group fund. The rule provides for controlled growth of employee leasing arrangements within group funds, ensuring continued stability and financial solvency without jeopardizing benefits to injured workers. WCA has begun the normal rule making process, which should take about a year. However, the emergency action was proposed because the group funds have been receiving applications from leasing companies, and they are looking to the agency for direction when considering the applications.



Bruno Czyrka

Czyrka Named Acting Director of Workers' Compensation Agency: Bruno Czyrka has been appointed acting director of the Workers' Compensation Agency, as the search for a new director has gotten underway. The Executive Order creating the Department of Labor & Economic Growth also established the Workers' Compensation Agency.

Geskey Named to MES Board of Review: Gov. Jennifer Granholm has appointed Stephen Geskey to the Michigan Employment Security Board of Review to represent the general public for a term ending Dec. 31, 2008. Geskey, who had been an assistant attorney general with the state's Attorney General, succeeds Kathleen Markman whose term ended. The board hears and decides appeals of the Unemployment Insurance Agency and administrative law judge decisions and orders connected with claims for unemployment compensation for federal workers, state employees, veterans and industrial and commercial workers.

Assisting Michiganians with Disabilities

Blind Job Seekers Practice Skills at Bay City Employment Seminar: The Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) presented an Employment Readiness Seminar October 19 at the Doubletree Hotel, in Bay City. The purpose of the seminar was to provide MCB clients seeking employment with essential information and skills such as how to prepare a resume, find job leads, and prepare for an interview. "This seminar gave job seekers who are blind or visually impaired an opportunity to learn and practice the skills they'll need," said Elizabeth White, MCB assistant regional supervisor. "We present information during the morning, and we have the mock interviews and analysis in the afternoon." Elizabeth White welcomed participants to the event and gave an overview of the day's activities. Karen Larsen of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Sara Stech of the SSA-funded Benefits Planning, Assistance & Outreach, spoke on how working affects Social Security benefits. Deb Schafer and Martin Finney of Saginaw-Midland-Bay Michigan Works! described their organization's free services for job seekers. Denise Hayes of New Dimensions and Denise Murphy of SVRC, a Saginaw-based non-profit employment and training organization, reviewed resumes and made suggestions for improvements. During the afternoon, attendees participated in a series of mock job interviews conducted by MCB staff and Caleb Carr and Laura Britting of Mid-Michigan Industries. Each interview lasted 10 to 15 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of feedback from the interviewer. MCB provides opportunities for individuals who are blind to achieve independence and/or employment. The commission's five-member policy board, appointed by the governor, oversees programs throughout Michigan that annually serve an average of more than 4,500 state residents who are blind or visually impaired. Visit the Michigan Commission for the Blind website at www.michigan.gov/mcb or call MCB toll-free at 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY).

Developing a 21st Century Workforce



DLEG Bureau of Career Education Programs sponsored the "Growing Entrepreneurship in Michigan" conference.

Bureau of Career Education Grant Initiative Results in 227

Entrepreneurship Education Programs: Fifteen teams from around the state showcased their new entrepreneurship education curricula and shared best practices at the second annual "Growing Entrepreneurship in Michigan" conference held September 16 in Lansing. The Bureau of Career Education Programs (CEP) sponsored the event. The conference culminates an almost yearlong initiative of CEP to develop and increase entrepreneurship education opportunities for high school and community college students. Last November, grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded to 15 applicants represented by teams who could demonstrate they would develop a minimum of six entrepreneurship education programs that would start at the high school level and advance toward an associate's degree or certificate at the community college. The grant initiative resulted in the creation of 227 articulated entrepreneurship programs, far surpassing the initial goal of 140 programs. More than 150 individuals representing all 25 regions of the state that comprise the Tech Prep Consortia in Michigan participated. The teams included secondary and postsecondary educators and their regional business/community partners who were instrumental in developing new

curriculum and/or integrating entrepreneurial skills into existing curricula. The Bureau's first entrepreneurship conference in September 2004, announced the grant initiative as a way to address the need to educate future workers for a changing, entrepreneurial economy.

More Than \$96 Million in Fiscal Year 2006 Work First Funding Awarded: Gov. Granholm announced the awarding of \$96,519,931 in funding for operation of the Work First Program. The goal of Work First is to assist Michigan's low-income citizens in gaining the skills they need to obtain jobs or higher paying jobs, thereby reducing or eliminating their need for public assistance. "This funding will help provide opportunities for individuals who are participating in Work First to gain further education and training and the job search assistance they need to become self-sufficient," Granholm said. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and General Funds/General Purpose funds will be made available to the state's 25 Workforce Development Boards to provide services through the corresponding Michigan Works! Agencies for Fiscal Year 2006. The allocations are viewable at:

http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10573_11472-128534--M_2005_10,00.html. To view an interactive map of the state's Michigan Works! regions and the counties included in each region, go to <http://www.michiganworks.org.cfm/14>.

\$219,000 Awarded for Michigan Regional Skills Alliances: A total of \$219,000 in Workforce Investment Act funds have been distributed to Michigan Works! agencies to provide employment and training activities as part of Michigan Regional Skills Alliance (MiRSA) activities within the region. MiRSAs are employer-led, industry-based partnerships that make Michigan more attractive to employers and improve opportunities for workers. MiRSAs coordinate workforce services to industry clusters and strengthen key industries across the state through the coordination of training and employment initiatives. The funds are distributed as follows:

- \$89,000 to Capital Area Michigan Works! for the Capital Healthcare and Employment Council, Michigan Regional Skills Alliance.
- \$50,000 to South Central Michigan Works! for the Michigan Direct Care Workforce Initiative, Michigan Regional Skills Alliance.
- \$40,000 to South Central Michigan Works! for the South Central Manufacturers' Regional Skills Alliance. In addition, this initiative is also being supported in part by \$50,000 in funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.
- \$40,000 to the Thumb Area Michigan Works! for the Thumb Area Employment Builders' Alliance - Advanced Manufacturing Training Cooperative, Michigan Regional Skills Alliance.

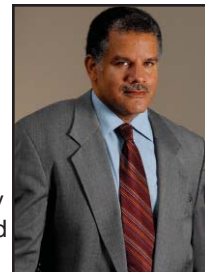
Funding for the MiRSA initiative is provided by the State of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Labor and is administered by the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

DLEG's Bureau of Career Education Programs Sponsors Michigan YES! Youth Engineering & Science Expo: "Exploring careers that will create the future" was the theme of the second annual Michigan YES! Youth Engineering & Science Expo held on October 26 at Ford Field in Detroit. It was hosted by Michigan Technological University and sponsored by DLEG's Bureau of Career Education Programs along with corporations, foundations, and all of Michigan's 16 public universities. The expo inspired and encouraged the more than 18,000 high school and middle school students who attended to pursue postsecondary education and careers in math, science and engineering. The expo featured three Xtech live/multimedia performances and nearly 100 technology-based exhibits that showcased exciting concepts in engineering and science.

King-Chavez-Parks Initiative, GEAR UP! Michigan (Office of Postsecondary Services) Hold Program Meeting: DLEG's Office of Postsecondary Services hosted its Fall/Winter Program Meeting for King-Chavez-Parks Initiative (KCP) and GEAR UP! Michigan representatives on September 19 at the Lansing Community College West Campus. Program representatives attending were from GEAR UP Michigan! (GU), College Day (CD), Michigan College University Partnership (MICUP), Select Student Support Services (4-S), Morris Hood Educator Development (MHED) and Future Faculty Fellowship (FFF). The morning featured an update evaluation of the progress GEAR UP! Michigan has made over the last year while KCP representatives learned of program updates, web-based application development, best practices for developing and maintaining corporate partnerships, accessing resources to support KCP programs, models for institutionalizing KCP programs and career counseling. In the afternoon, financial aid training for GEAR UP Michigan! and College Day representatives on how to most effectively present student financial aid opportunities to parents and students going to college was presented by the Michigan Department of Treasury and the Michigan Guaranty Agency. KCP representatives attended sessions presented by colleagues from Lawrence Technological University, Madonna University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Oakland University, Olivet College, the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan, Partnership for Learning, Spring Arbor University, and the University of Michigan -Ann Arbor, U-M Dearborn and U-M Flint.

Serving the Community

Hon. Gregory Holiday Receives Award for Teaching Excellence From The National Judicial College: The National Judicial College (NJC) announced that the 2005 V. Robert Payant Award for Teaching Excellence was awarded to Hon. Gregory Holiday, of Detroit, Mich. Judge Holiday is an administrative law judge for Michigan's State Office of Administrative Hearings & Rules, which is part of DLEG. He became a member of the NJC faculty in 1990. Judge Holiday is an alumnus of the NJC and former chair of the Faculty Council, a nine-member advisory body elected to act as a voice for NJC's 300-plus volunteer faculty. V. Robert Payant Award recipients are selected annually and show a strong commitment to judicial education. Judge Holiday has served as an administrative law judge since 1981, presiding over professional disciplinary and other cases. Prior to that, he was a staff attorney and supervising attorney for the Oakland Livingston Legal Aid Society.



**Hon. Gregory
Holiday**